

scheduled commitment in my district. Due to my absence, I request unanimous consent for the record to reflect that had I been here, I would have voted in the following manner:

Rollcall vote No. 600, I would have voted "nay";

Rollcall vote No. 601, I would have voted "nay."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2008

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, yesterday I was meeting with constituents off the House of Representatives campus and missed three votes. I would like the RECORD to reflect how I would have voted.

Rollcall No. 602 on suspending the rules and passing H. Res. 1335, celebrating the 120-year partnership between Government and State veterans homes, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall No. 603 on suspending the rules and passing S. 2339, designating the Department of Veterans Affairs clinic in Alpena, Michigan, as the "Lieutenant Colonel Clement C. Van Wagoner Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic", I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall No. 604 on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 1594, designating the Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic in Hermitage, Pennsylvania, as the Michael A. Marzano Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic, I would have voted "yea."

GREAT LAKES LEGACY REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2008

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Madam Speaker, as we all know, the Great Lakes have suffered as a result of years of industrial pollution that entered their waters. Through the Clean Water Act and other important measures we have begun the work necessary to reverse that trend.

However, much work needs to be done. The 2007 State of the Great Lakes report recorded the status of the Great Lakes ecosystem as mixed. In other words, the ecosystem displays both good and degraded features. Stopping pollution from entering the water is one thing. Beginning the efforts to restore the ecosystem from the damage it incurred is another.

Undoing that damage will require an extensive amount of work. One of the best tools in our arsenal to achieve that goal is the Great Lakes Legacy Act. This act, which authorizes funds to clean up contaminated sediment sites in U.S. Areas of Concern (AOCs), was spearheaded by my Great Lakes State colleague, Mr. EHLERS.

The projects that are funded under this act are devoted to prevention and remediation of contaminated sediment. As a result of projects done under this act, nearly 800,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediments have been

removed from AOCs. It is clear that this program has been successful and that is why it has been endorsed by numerous Great Lakes groups.

This program has been very good for the Great Lakes and we need to build on those successes to meet the challenges. While some great work has been done so far, we have only seen one spot de-listed as an Area of Concern; 31 Areas of Concern remain in the U.S. alone and 5 more are split between the U.S. and Canada. For these areas to be dealt with, it will take an incredible investment at the Federal level.

This legislation increases the authorization for this program up to \$150 million annually. While I support that, I think we must also do our due diligence on the appropriations side of the ledger. Over the past few years, we seem to have settled at around the \$30–35 million level, even though we are currently authorized at \$50 million per year.

We also need to make sure that there is sufficient participation at the State and local level to complement Federal efforts. With the economy in Michigan being what it is, State and local governments are barely able in many cases to perform their basic functions, let alone take on ambitious restoration projects. This bill makes some improvements which will help in meeting the non-Federal requirements.

In closing, Madam Speaker, this has been a very successful program. I am glad to see that we are reauthorizing it at a higher level. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

HONORING SAMUEL ANDERSON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Samuel Anderson of Blue Springs, Missouri. Samuel is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1696, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Samuel has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Samuel has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Samuel Anderson for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2008

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, on Monday, September 15, 2008, I was unavoidably detained and thus I missed rollcall votes Nos. 589 through 591. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

On rollcall vote No. 589 on H. Res. 1200, honoring the dedicated and outstanding work of military support groups across the country for their steadfast support of the members of our Armed Forces and their families, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote No. 590, on H. Con. Res. 390, of which I am a cosponsor, honoring the 28th Infantry Division for serving and protecting the United States, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall No. 591, H.R. 6889, to extend the authority of the Secretary of Education to ensure continued access to Federal student loans, for 1 year, I would have voted "aye."

IN HONOR OF THE REVEREND DR. WALTER A. JONES, SR., SENIOR PASTOR AND ORGANIZER OF THE MAJORITY BAPTIST CHURCH ST. ALBANS, NEW YORK

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2008

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to commemorate the retirement and service of a great man of God, a great American, a great New Yorker, a dear friend and one of my constituents, the Reverend Dr. Walter A. Jones, Sr., senior pastor and organizer of the Majority Baptist Church, in St. Albans, NY.

The Reverend Dr. Jones rose from humble beginnings to a position of honor and distinction among our Nation's Baptist ministers. As a man of the cloth, his service and commitment to his church and the community that it serves have helped to improve the quality of life and spiritual condition of the people who reside there.

The Reverend Dr. Jones is a product of his hometown primary schools in Spartansburg, SC, and is a graduate of both the Friendship College of Rock Hill, SC, and the City College of New York, and has studied psychology at York College in Jamaica, NY. Reverend Jones received his ministerial training at the New York Theological Seminary of New York City, and his initial theological education began under the guidance of his spiritual mother, the late Reverend Dr. Katherine Brazley.

The Reverend Dr. Jones is the former president of the Baptist Ministers Conference of Queens, and he is a member of the Baptist Ministers Conference of Greater New York. Additionally, Reverend Dr. Jones is a member of the Eastern Baptist Association, the Ministers Conference of Hampton University, the Empire Convention of New York State and the National Baptist Convention. The Reverend Dr. Jones is also a member of the American Baptist Churches of New York City.

The Reverend Dr. Jones is married to Mrs. Doris L. Hope-Jones and they are the proud parents of two sons and a daughter.

The Reverend Dr. Walter A. Jones, Sr., senior pastor and organizer of the Majority Baptist Church, in St. Albans, NY, has been a pillar of strength, vision and hope in the St. Albans community, and I congratulate him on his many years of service to the church and our community.